

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 5, and claim 5 has been canceled. As a result of the amendments of claims 1 and 5, the dependency of claim 6 has been revised to depend upon claim 1. Claims 7-15 are amended to further define features of the sensor circuit and are supported for example at pages 4 and 5 of Applicant's original disclosure. Claim 16 has been editorially revised to correct a typographical error. Claim 20 includes subject matter from original claim 5. Claims 21, 23-28, and 32 are amended and supported for example at pages 4-5 of Applicant's original disclosure. Claim 35 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 6. No new matter has been added.

Turning to the remaining substantive issues in the present application, the following prior art rejections appear to remain in this application from the previous final Office Action dated November 8, 2005.

1. Claims 1, 5, 7, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reuyl (U.S. Patent No. 4,182,960) in view of James et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,333,703).

2. Claims 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reuyl (U.S. 4,182,960) and James et al. (U.S. 5,333,703) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Ulinski et al. (U.S. 6,700,214).

3. Claims 9, 13, 23, 26, 28, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reuyl (U.S. 4,182,960) and James et al. (U.S. 5,333,703) as applied to claims 1 and 20, and further in view of Ito et al. (U.S. 5,276,624).

4. Claims 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 22, 25, 27, 30-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reuyl (U.S. 4,182,960) and James et al. (U.S. 5,333,703) and Ito et al. (U.S. 5,276,624) as applied to claims 1, 20, 23, and 28, and further in view of Riedel (U.S. 5,954,040).

5. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reuyl (U.S. 4,182,960) and James et al. (U.S. 5,333,703) as applied to claim 1, and further in view of (Graber et al. (U.S. 6,534,958).

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6. Claims 10 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reuyl (U.S. 4,182,960) and James et al. (U.S. 5,333,703) and Ito et al. (U.S. 5,276,624) as applied to claims 1 and 23 above, and further in view of Duke et al. (U.S. 5,432,413).

7. Claims 6, 16-19, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reuyl (U.S. 4,182,960) and James et al. (U.S. 5,333,703) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kawaguchi et al. (U.S. 4,961,403).

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the above rejections for at least the following reasons. Independent claims 1 and 20 include the subject matter from original claim 5. Claim 35 also includes the subject matter from original claim 5 and 6. The rejection of claim 5 was not sustained by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interference in its Decision of June 13, 2008. The Board did not find that the limitations of claim 5 were taught by the references, namely where the load circuit includes an at least partially AC-powered electrical appliance of a vehicle. Applicants respectfully submit that in view of these amendments, claims 1, 20, and 35 and their respective dependents are allowable because the art of record does not disclose or suggest the features now claimed.

Regarding dependent claims 7-15, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references of record disclose or suggest these claims which further define features of the sensor circuit and its capability. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are separately allowable for at least these reasons.

Regarding dependent claims 21, 23-28, and 32, Applicant respectfully submits that the references of record do not disclose or suggest these claims which further define features of detecting the fault condition. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are separately allowable for at least these reasons.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes that the claims of this application are in a condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If any questions or concerns arise concerning this Communication, please contact Applicants' representative listed below.

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If necessary and not provided for in a separate paper filed herewith, please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers, and please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3478.



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Respectfully submitted,

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